

DWD CHILD CARE FACT SHEET

Changes in the DWD Child Care Budget 1986 – 2005

Budget item	1986-87 Gov. TGT administration starts	1995-1996 Wisconsin Works legislation is passed	2002-2003 budget	2004-2005 budget
Direct services to families: child care subsidies, contracted, W-2 and migrant childcare.	\$13 million	\$56 million	\$306 million	\$308 million
Indirect services: increasing the quality and supply of child care	\$0	\$4 million	\$39 million	\$15 million
Total	\$13 million	\$ 60 million	\$345 million	\$323 million

Note: For 1986-1996 the child care budget was part of the Department of Health and Social Services' budget. In 1996-97, the Office of Child Care and the child care budget moved to DWD.

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

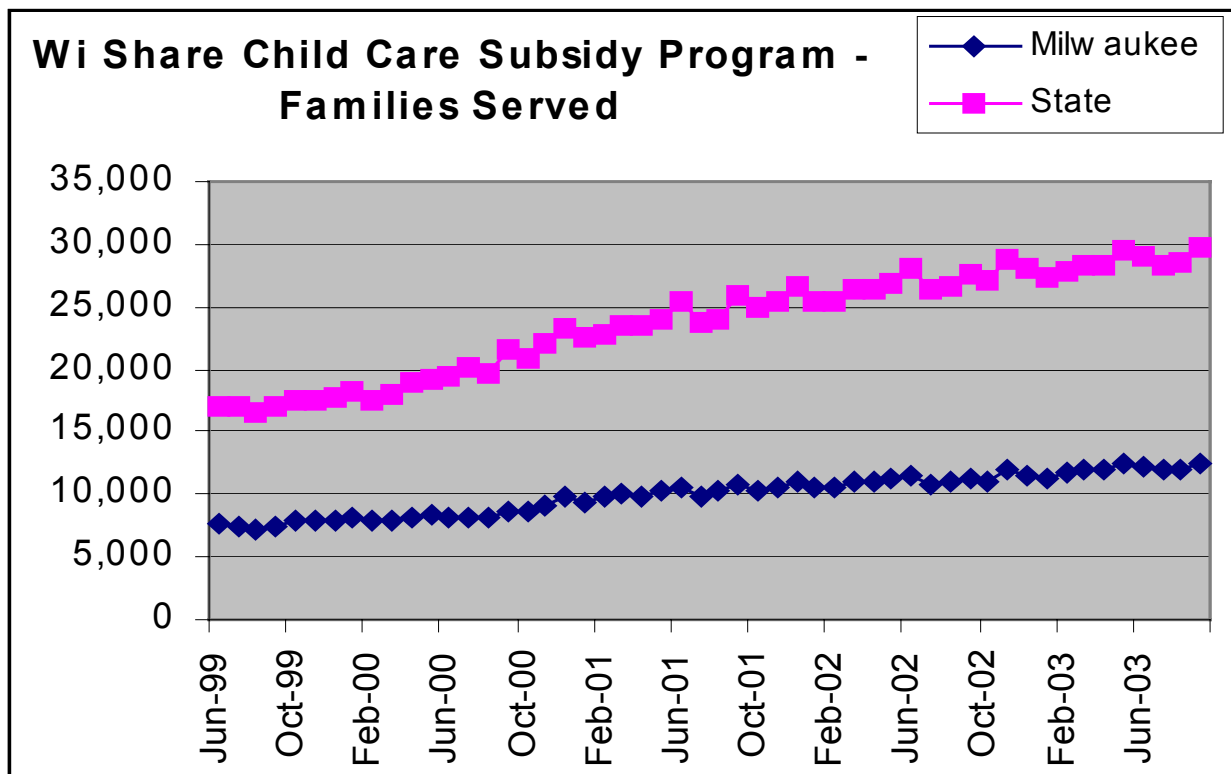
- Since 1996, Wisconsin has increased its investment in child care subsidies more than five-fold, from \$56 million in SFY 1997 to \$308 million in SFY 2005. (Source: Wisconsin State Budget)
- In March 2004, the Wisconsin Shares program served 50,050 children statewide, an increase of 9,154 children in three years. The number of families served increased by 5,629 for the same period, to 29,075 (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- In Milwaukee County in September 2003, Wisconsin Shares served 24,179 children in 12,356 families. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- Over 82% of Wisconsin children using the state subsidy system in the third quarter of 2003 attended licensed child care providers or child care programs run by public schools. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- Over 91% of the families served by the subsidy program are single-parent families. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- Waiting lists for child care subsidies were eliminated in March 1997. All eligible children receive child care subsidies.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM GROWTH: 1997-2003

	Sept 1997	Sept 1999	Sept 2001	Sept 2003
Families Served	10,888	16,948	25,910	29,787
Children Served	18,671	30,603	46,228	52,908

(Source: DWD Child Care Section – this data includes child care subsidies paid through the statewide automated Child Care Payment System, but not subsidies provided through special contracts for migrant child care or for short-term on-site child care at W-2 agencies and county departments.)

- During 2003, more than 8,900 child care providers, approximately 80% of the regulated child care providers in the state, participated in the child care subsidy program, giving families a wide range of choice. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- Wisconsin's automated Child Care Payment System (CCPS is a subsystem of the CARES system) is integrated with W-2, Food Stamps, and Medicaid/BadgerCare, with a single funding stream for child care. The automated system determines eligibility, assigns parent co-pay level, establishes authorizations (vouchers), sends notices, makes payments and adjustments, files federal reports, and maintains a data warehouse designed for policy analysis. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- The DWS Child Care Section is currently engaged in a major project to migrate all of its automated system support from a mainframe platform to the Web. The target date for completion is Fall 2004.
- In September 2003, Wisconsin served 52,908 children out of an estimated 148,000 eligible, or approximately 36% of those eligible under Wisconsin law.



Child Care Quality Improvement/Capacity Building

Funding for improving the quality and availability of child care is \$12,059,400 for SFY 2004 and \$12,126,700 in SFY 2005. (Source: Wisconsin state budget)

Capacity Building

- Licensed child care capacity has increased 84% statewide over the last decade, with an increase from 2,929 licensed child care programs in April 1990 to 5,661 in December 2003. (Source: DHFS Bureau of Regulation and Licensing).
- The number of family child care programs certified by county and tribal agencies has more than doubled, from 2,389 in 1985 to 4,880 at the end of 2003. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)
- The overall number of regulated child care providers (licensed or certified) has tripled since 1985. (Source: DHFS Bureau of Regulation and Licensing and DWD Child Care Section)
- Licensed capacity in Milwaukee has had particularly strong growth from 1997 to 2003. The number of licensed family child care providers increased from 235 to 929 (1,879 to 7,389 slots) and the number of licensed group child care centers have increased from 400 to 469 (23,965 to 28,275 slots). (Source: DHFS Bureau of Regulation and Licensing)
- The Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement was created by the legislature in 1989 and first funded in 1991. The Head Start State Supplement is administered through DPI. The program provides a Head Start experience to preschool children who would otherwise be on waiting lists to receive the federal head Start program. Approximately 1,449 children were served through the state supplement in 2002-03. The biennial 2003-05 budget allocates DWD TANF funds of \$3,500,000 and \$3,212,500 DPI funds for this program, bringing the total annual amount to \$7,212,000.

Quality Improvement

- In June 2000, \$10.5 million in Early Childhood Excellence grants were awarded to 18 child care centers around the state to create state-of-the-art learning centers for children from low-income families. In November 2003, \$3,500,000 in continuation grants was awarded to these centers for the 2003-05 biennium. The grants are based on research showing long-term gains from early intervention with an early learning emphasis.
- The Early Childhood Excellence initiative also includes outreach accreditation grants of \$1.0 million for 2003-05 to support existing child care programs statewide that are nationally accredited. This fits the principles of the Early Childhood Excellence Initiative by creating model state-of-the-art early childhood centers for excellence, and uses those models to support high quality programs throughout the state. In 2004, \$500,000 in grants were awarded to 180 accredited centers and family providers.
- UW-Extension provides technical assistance and evaluation services to the project. The research has found that the Early Childhood Excellence Initiative has demonstrated an ability to

substantially improve the quality of care provided to children from low-income families. (Source: DWD Child Care Section/Wisconsin Child Care Partnership)

Child Care Information Center

Wisconsin is perhaps the only state to have a complete lending library dedicated to meeting the needs of the child care community. CCIC has a collection of over 6,000 books, periodicals, and other publications and over 3,500 videotapes relevant to child care and early education. The Center is part of the Department of Public Instruction's Reference and Loan Library, linked to all public libraries throughout Wisconsin. Its services are simple to access through a statewide toll-free phone number. The Center:

- Handles 5,300 inquiries per year.
- distributes a regular newsletter to approximately 13,000 child care and early education programs, staff, teacher educators, and others.
- produces brochures, booklets, and displays on key topics of state wide interest
- serves as a distribution point for publications developed by state departments.

Child Care Staff Development and Retention

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood@ WISCONSIN.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood is our state's early care and education scholarship and bonus initiative which began in 1999. This initiative is designed to link credit based early childhood training, compensation and commitment to improving the quality of early childhood and school age care and education experiences for young children and their families. The goals of the scholarship program are to increase early childhood professionals educational levels, increase compensation and decrease turnover in the child care field.

- Since 1999, nearly 3,000 scholarships have been awarded statewide to family child care providers, group center teachers, directors and administrators who are currently completing early childhood credit based coursework at technical schools, universities and private colleges through scholarship contracts. Over 1,400 child care programs have benefited from these scholarships.
- Scholarship recipients have completed a substantial number of college credits in early childhood education and child development. Teachers participating in T.E.A.C.H. average nearly three times the education levels required by licensing. Assistant child care teachers and family child care providers average more than five times the education levels required by licensing.
- Staff turnover for T.E.A.C.H. recipients is one-third the rate of the child care profession. Scholarship recipients have an average turnover rate of 12 percent, which is less than one-third the 40 percent annual turnover rate for Wisconsin child care teachers in general.
- Scholarship recipients working in child care centers receive an average wage increase of 7 percent each year, as compared to the general child care field wage increase of 3.3 percent.

R.E.W.A.R.D.™ WISCONSIN Stipend Program

R.E.W.A.R.D., a compensation initiative that awards annual stipends directly to Early Childhood Professionals in Wisconsin, began in 2001. This initiative rewards attained credit based early childhood education and longevity in the child care workforce. This initiative addresses the issue of low wages in the early childhood field, without impacting child care program budgets, regular

wages, or parent fees. The goals of this program are to reward attained education, reduce turnover, and increase compensation through the encouragement of continued education and commitment to the child care field. This initiative is designed to improve the quality of care in Wisconsin child care programs by rewarding child care professionals for their commitment to the child care program.

- During the 2003, over 900 stipends were awarded to family child care providers, group center teachers, directors and administrators.
- Stipend recipients were from 70 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Stipend recipients provide care in over 1,200 child care programs. The total number of children who receive care from these stipend recipients is in excess of 80,500 children.
- Stipend recipients averaged over seven years of service at their current child care program and, in addition, averaged over 12 years of service in the early care and education field.

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards have been developed through a collaboration between the Departments of Workforce Development, Public Instruction, and Health and Family Services, the Wisconsin Head Start Collaboration Project, Cooperative Educational Service Agencies, Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners and the Early Childhood Community. The Standards provide a framework for understanding and communicating a common set of expectations for children across all early learning environments. The primary intended use for the voluntary Standards is guidance on developmentally appropriate expectations for children. The Standards also set a "floor" for quality programming in early care and education settings.

Guiding Principles have been developed to inform the application of the Standards. These principles reflect the knowledge base in scientific research, Wisconsin values, and the commitment to young children and their families. The Standards set forth five development domains:

- ◆ Health and Physical Development
- ◆ Social and Emotional Development
- ◆ Language Development and Communication
- ◆ Approaches to Learning, and
- ◆ Cognition and General Knowledge

The domains are inter-related and interdependent. The Standards specify developmental expectations in each domain for children in the early childhood period, and specify performance standards that children can demonstrate as they master the developmental expectations.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies and Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Wisconsin funds 16 Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and one Network which serve all 72 counties and 11 tribes. The agencies are community-based experts who make child care work by developing professionals who care for children, by connecting nearly 26,000 families with child care services, and collecting child care data that impacts Wisconsin communities. CCR&Rs emphasize accountability by evaluating the satisfaction of key stakeholders and by participating in CCR&R

accreditation and a soon to-be developed peer review process. Wisconsin CCR&Rs are leaders nationally in developing and utilizing accreditation standards.

CCR&R administrative experiences include:

- From 1994 through 2001, all CCR&R agencies administered a state-wide Start-Up Expansion/Quality Improvement Grant Program.
- In 2001-2002 six CCR&R agencies coordinated the Centers of Excellence Replication Grant Program.
- CCR&R agencies in Eau Claire, Madison, and Milwaukee currently sponsor 3 of Wisconsin's 8 child care food programs. In 2001 the Milwaukee program served more than 57,373 children and reimbursed more than \$2.6 million to providers.
- 7 CCR&R agencies administer the child care certification program for 12 counties.
- The Appleton CCR&R agency is responsible for child care processing and provider relations connected to child care subsidy payments for child care providers in Outagamie County.
- Family Resources in La Crosse coordinates the Birth to 3 Program in La Crosse County.
- Family Connections CCR&R in Sheboygan administered a \$500,000 Benefit Grants Program supported through Wisconsin's Community Child Care Initiative (CCCI) funds utilized in 2 counties. As a result of this program, 394 providers in Sheboygan and Manitowoc counties purchased health care benefits or established retirement accounts. Support for the funding of this program ended when the CCCI grant program was dramatically cut.
- The Network through a subcontract with a CCR&R agency in Hayward administers a project funded with Head Start Collaboration funds to improve quality in tribal child care programs.

CCR&R agencies have provided the lead on numerous statewide collaborative initiatives designed to inform and assist parents, child care providers, employers, and community members about the importance of early care and education: Think Big, Start Small, Public Awareness Campaign, Work Family Link, Together-Children Grow, Mentor-Teacher Project, Parent Education and Support, Community Child Care Initiative Projects. With an additional project, the Network and the 16 agencies are partners with UW Extension and DWD in a research study to assess the quality of care for children receiving subsidies.

Besides CCR&R agencies offering training and recruiting providers to participate in T.E.A.C.H. and R.E.W.A.R.D., CCR&Rs have implemented intensive programs focused on child care quality improvement, assistance to child care providers in developing career paths, development of substitute pool programs, provision of health and inclusion consultants at 3 CCR&R agencies, coordination or planning for sick child care programs, and support for diversity efforts.

Local Community Child Care Initiatives

In 2003, Wisconsin awarded \$2,475,100 in federal child care matching funds to 57 local public agencies to improve the quality and supply of child care in their local communities. Twenty of these agencies are actually lead agencies for collaborative applications involving 66 additional partners. Local agencies identify local child care expenditures as match dollars, that are used to draw down the federal child care funds. Services will be provided in virtually every county of the state under these grants. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)

Regulation and Licensing

To provide protection and assistance to child in child care settings, Wisconsin operates a strong program of licensing and certification. Licensing is administered through the Department of Health and Family Services and generally applies to child care programs serving 4 or more children.

Certification is operated by local counties and tribes and applies to child care programs not required to be licensed (primarily family child care), but which serve children funded by the child care subsidy program and other public funds.

- In 2003-04, the DWD budget provides \$4.4 million for the support of DHFS' child care licensing program.

Wisconsin's regulatory programs focus primarily on health and safety, staff qualifications, and promotion of healthy child development. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)

Research Efforts

UW-Extension, the CCRR Network, and the Child Care Section is collaborating on a research project funded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Child Care Bureau. This project

The project has three objectives:

- To use administrative data from DWD's child care data warehouse to describe the demographic, geographic, and composition characteristics of the population of children, families, and child care providers who currently access state child care subsidies in Wisconsin.
- To compare the structural quality of state-subsidized child care with the quality of child care for other licensed programs in the state.
- To use observational, interview, and questionnaire measures to assess the state's record for supporting high quality child care for children in families that do and do not receive subsidies.

The project issues regular research briefs, based on the research efforts.

In addition, the Child Care Section and UW-Extension are working on an evaluation of the variables that contribute to high quality programs that become and remain accredited. (Source: DWD Child Care Section)

For more information on Wisconsin's child care program, go to the following web site:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/default.htm>.